

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 DEAE-00 SNM-02 DHA-02 L-03 H-02

/023 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:COCECIL:AFJ
APPROVED BY NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN
SCA/SCS:RWACH (PHONE)
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
SCA/SCS

----- 066441

O P 130052Z JAN 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 007702

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, SA

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR CONSULAR ASSISTANCE (SHEPLER, GLENN)

1. MOTHER OF MR. GLENN SHEPLER, EMPLOYEE OF ATLANTIC-INTERNATIONAL, P.O. BOX 806, DAMMAM, CALLED DEPARTMENT THIS MORNING WITH FOLLOWING INFORMATION. A MR. LYNN BILLIT FRIEND OF MR. SHEPLER, AND FORMERLY AN EMPLOYEE OF ATLANTIC-INTERNATIONAL, APPARENTLY LEFT SAUDI ARABIA SUDDENLY LAST WEEK UPON DISCOVERING THAT UNIDENTIFIED FRIEND HAD PLACED IN THE INTERNATIONAL MAIL A PACKAGE (POSSIBLY CONTAINING COOKIES) CONTAINING SOME UNSPECIFIED NARCOTIC OR DRUG. UPON LEARNING THAT PACKAGE WAS EN ROUTE TO HIM, MR. BILLIT CHOSE TO DEPART SAUDI ARABIA AND RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES LAST WEEK. PACKAGE APPARENTLY BEARS NO RETURN ADDRESS, AND MR. BILLIT FELT THAT HIS URGENT DEPARTURE FROM SAUDI ARABIA WAS ADVISABLE FOR FEAR HE MIGHT BE APPREHENDED BY SAUDI AUTHORITIES IF THEY SHOULD DISCOVER CONTENTS OF PACKAGE.
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MR. BILLIT HAS NOW LEARNED THAT PACKAGE IS ADDRESSED TO

BOTH HIMSELF AND MR. SHEPLER, WHO MAY ALSO THEREFORE RISK QUESTIONING OR INCARCERATION BY SAUDI AUTHORITIES. MRS.

SHEPLER REQUESTS THAT CONSULATE CONTACT HER SON, INFORM HIM OF SITUATION, AND ADVISE HIM, IF POSSIBLE, ON BEST COURSE OF ACTION.

2. DEPT DEFERS TO CONSULATE'S JUDGMENT ON HOW BEST TO HANDLE THIS PROBLEM, THOUGH OUR INITIAL INSTINCTS ARE TO INFORM SAUDI AUTHORITIES TO BE ALERT FOR PACKAGE, TO NOTE THAT PACKAGE WAS NOT REQUESTED BY MR. SHEPLER, AND THAT AUTHORITIES ARE BEING INFORMED IN ORDER THAT HE MAY DEMONSTRATE HIS GOOD FAITH IN THE MATTER. AFTER INITIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH SHEPLER, CONSULATE SHOULD ALSO BRIEF MANAGEMENT OF ATLANTIC-INTERNATIONAL. SHOULD COMPANY OFFICIALS AND MR. SHEPLER DECIDE THAT HIS DEPARTURE IS IN ANY CASE ADVISABLE, CONSULATE MIGHT IN THAT CASE DELAY INFORMING SAUDI AUTHORITIES UNTIL SHEPLER HAS LEFT.

3. MOTHER IS DISTRAUGHT. PLEASE INFORM DEPT OF ACTION SHEPLER DECIDES TO TAKE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE007702
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: COCECIL:AFJ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760011-0229
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760162/aaaaccpy.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <03 NOV 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST FOR CONSULAR ASSISTANCE (SHEPLER, GLENN)
TAGS: CASC, SA, (SHEPLER, GLENN), (BILLIT)
To: DHAHRAN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006